

Applicant: VERMEER  
U.S. Serial No.: to be assigned  
Filing Date: Herewith  
Preliminary Amendment  
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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): Use of a composition comprising vitamin K or a derivative thereof, optionally together with vitamin D or a derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional formulation for treating or preventing age-related stiffening of arteries, not associated with arteriosclerosis.

Claim 2 (previously presented): Use of a composition according to claim 1, wherein said vitamin K is vitamin K<sub>1</sub> (phylloquinone) or vitamin K<sub>2</sub> (menaquinone).

Claim 3 (previously presented): Use of a composition according to claim 2 wherein said vitamin K is vitamin K<sub>1</sub> (phylloquinone).

Claim 4 (currently amended): Use of a composition according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 3]] wherein the daily dosage of vitamin K or a derivative thereof is in the range 50μg-1000μg.

Claim 5 (currently amended): Use of a composition according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 4]] wherein the medicament or nutritional composition comprises vitamin D or a derivative thereof.

Claim 6 (previously presented): Use of a composition according to claim 5 wherein said vitamin D is vitamin D<sub>3</sub> (cholecalciferol).

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Claim 7 (currently amended): Use of a composition according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 6]] wherein the medicament or nutritional formulation is for administration to a postmenopausal woman.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Use of a composition according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 7]] wherein the medicament or nutritional formulation is to be administered over a period of at least 12 months, preferably at least 36 months.

Claim 9 (previously presented): Use of a composition according to claim 1 wherein said arteries are the common carotid arteries.

Claim 10 (currently amended): Use of a composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-9~~ claim 1 for promoting healthy arteries, comprising vitamin K or a derivative thereof, optionally together with vitamin D or a derivative thereof, further comprising one or more additional components selected from: polyphenols, vitamin C, vitamin E (tocopherols and/or tocotrienols), L-arginine, phytosterols, antihypertensive peptides, soluble fibers (e.g. guar, pectin), omega-3, omega-6 and/or omega-9 fatty acids, carnitine, taurine, coenzyme Q10, creatine, folic acid, folates, magnesium, potassium, vitamin B6, and vitamin B12.

Claim 11 (previously presented): Use of a composition according to claim 10 which comprises in a single dose: 0.5-1mg vitamin K and 5-10 $\mu$ g vitamin D.

Claim 12 (previously presented): Use of a composition according to claim 10 which comprises: 0.5-1.5mg vitamin K; 5-10 $\mu$ g vitamin D; 450-550mg Calcium; 7-12 mg Zinc; and 100-200mg Magnesium.

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Claim 13 (previously presented): Use of a composition according to claim 12 which comprises about 1mg Vitamin K<sub>1</sub>; 8 µg vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, 500mg Calcium, 10mg Zinc; and 150mg Magnesium.

Claim 14 (currently amended): Use of a composition according ~~to any of claims 10 to 13~~ claim 10 which is a food or beverage product or a dietary supplement.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method of preventing or treating age-related arterial stiffening, not associated with arteriosclerosis, comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment an effective amount of vitamin K or a derivative thereof and optionally vitamin D or a derivative thereof.